

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, OVIP

SUBJ: VISIT OF MAF VICE MINISTER NAKANO TO USDA ON APRIL 14

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME, FAS

1. YAMADA OF MAF RELAYED FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO AGATT BY PHONE WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO ESSENTIALLY REPRESENT MAF'S SUGGESTION AS TO THE TYPE OF A JOINT STATEMENT USDA AND MAF MIGHT AGREE TO DURING NAKANO VISIT. WOULD POSSIBLY BE RELEASED LATER DURING EXPECTED VISIT OF MINISTER ABE AS SOON AS CURRENT DIET SESSION ENDS, IN LATE MAY OR JUNE. HE RELUCTANT TO PRESENT COPY OF ACTUAL PAPER. ORAL VERSION FOLLOWS. QUOTE (1) MAF AND USDA WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WITH THE AIM OF ENSURING A STABLE TRADE OF THESE PRODUCTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. (2) MAF AND USDA WILL ENDEAVOR TO STABILIZE THE TRANSACTIONS OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS THROUGH THE CONSULTATIONS SET OUT BELOW, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PRODUCTION AND TRADE SITUATION OF THE RESPECTIVE PRODUCTS. (A) AS REGARDS WHEAT--THE FOOD AGENCY OF MAJ WILL ENDEAVOR AS IT HAS DONE THROUGH CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH USDA AND OTHER BODIES CONCERNED TO ENSURE THAT THE STABLE TRANSACTIONS OF WHEAT BE MAINTAINED. (B) AS REGARDS SOYBEAN AND FEEDGRANS--MAF AND USDA WILL CONSULT ON THE ESTIMATE OF ANNUAL PRODUCTION/TRADE FIGURES FOR EVERY CROP YEAR AND WILL ENDEAVOR TO ENSURE STABLE TRANSACTIONS WITH THESE ESTIMATED FIGURES AS GUIDELINES. THE CONSULTATIONS SHALL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONDUCTED AS NECESSARY BY EXPERTS OF THE MAF AND USDA AT

APPROPRIATE TIMES SUCH AS BEFORE PLANTING AND HARVESTING. IN ADDITION, THE MAF AND USDA WILL CONDUCT STUDIES BY EXPERTS SEEKING THE POSSIBILITY OF JAPAN AND US LONG TERM CONTRACTS FOR THESE PRODUCTS ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS AND WILL INDUCE THE COMMERCIAL BODIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO REACH SUCH CONTRACTS. END QUOTE.

2. IN LENGTHY MEETING AT YAMADA'S REQUEST APRIL 4, HE MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS RE GRAIN RESERVES MEETINGS AND SOME MTN TOPICS IN ADDITION TO ADVISING AGATT RE SUGGESTED STATEMENT THAT HAD BEEN PROMISED PRIOR TO NAKANO VISIT AS REPORTED IN PARA 1. RE RESERVES US HAS NOT YET SPELLED OUT A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. SAID PARROTT ASKED US AND EGYPT TO PRESENT SPECIFICS. WHEREAS US PREFERS IWC AND QUANTITY TRIGGERS, EC WANTS GENEVA AND PRICE TRIGGERS ALSO. JAPAN DOES NOT OBJECTS TO IWC, BUT FEELS IT SHOULD BE REEXAMINED IN GENEVA. ALSO SAID WHILE FIRST CONCERN OF JAPAN IS SUPPLY SECURITY IT NOT TRUE THAT THEY NOT ALSO KEENLY INTERESTED IN PRICE. BUT JAPAN NOT INISTING THAT PRICE IS THE ONLY WAY. FRANKLY FEAR THAT US MAY HANDLE GRAIN RESERVES VERY POLITICALLY OR STRATEGICALLY E.G. LONDON DELEGATION HAD STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF FOOD AID. JAPAN CANNOT DENY AID PRUPOSES, BUT FEELS SHOLD BE SEPARATE. FINALLY, MTHE EC IS PUSHING FOR THREE GROUPS IN GATT, ON GRAINS, DAIRY AND MEAT. JAPAN'S PRIME INTEREST IS GRAINS BUT OTHERS MUST BE RECONED WITH. PROMISED TO RELAY HIS COMMENTS WHILE ADVISING THIS OFFICE NOT KEPT FULLY INFORMED RE ABOVE MATTERS, WHICH HANDLED IN USDA/FAS/W.

3. YAMADA ALSO SAID DG OKAYASU AND TSUKADA ARE VISITING PRC BEGINNING APRIL 14. AS A RESULT MAKI, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION WILL ACCOMPANY NAKANO. YAMADA WILL BE MAF MSMBER OF MINISTERIAL GROUP VISITING THAILAND APRIL 23 AND CANBERRA MAY 2.

4. FYI. ANNUAL MAF SHUFFLE REMOED TO OCCUR SHORTLY AFTER NAKANO RETURNS OR AFTER CURRENT DIET SESSION WITH MIYOSHI TO VM AND OKAWARA TO FA. ALSO, LIVESTOCK BUREAU NOW REPORTEDLY MAIN PROPONENT OF LT CONTRACTS IN MAF WITH TRADE-INDUSTRY SUPPORT HAVING CHANGED TO OPPOSITION TO MARKETING BUREAU RE SOYBEANS. MEMORIES ARE SHORT AND SHORT TERM FINANCES DOMINANT.
SHOESMITH
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